PROGRAMME NOTE. MS 11576 S/S

SONGS OF EXPERIENCE.....JOAN LITTLEJOHN.

These songs form the second half of a double song-cycle called "WILLIAM BLAKE'S SONGS OF INNOCENCE & OF EXPERIENCE, Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul."

The 1st complete performance was given by Hazel Hibbert & Christopher Grant at the RCM on February 3rd.

THE ARTISTS.

HAZEL HIBBERT, mezzo-soprano, age 24, comes from Pontypool, Monmouthshire. She sang in many concerts in that area while still at school, & also played the violin, viola & piano.

When 16 she toured the Riviera as Vocal Soloist with the Franco-Welsh Orchestra, & at the age of 19 she visited California on a summer exchange scholarship for the Viola.

She has sung several 1st performances of works by English & Welsh composers. She came to the RCM in 1966, & has studied with Redvers Llewellyn, Ruth Packer, James Lockhart, & in the RCM Opera School; also in Else Mayer-Lismann's Opera Workshop.

She is currently collecting together the funds to study Singing with Madame Carpi, & also Opera, in Geneva, at the Centre Lyrique International, where she has been offered a place for next September.

CHRISTOPHER GRANT, piano, age 23, comes from Oxfordshire, & began piano lessons at the age of 7. He is now in his 5th year at the RCM, where he studies Piano with Angus Morrison, & is making a speciality of Piano Accompanying with Gordon Stewart. He recently won the Clytie-Mundie Accompanying Prize, & has taken part in recitals & concerts all over the country.

He is Repetiteur for the Else Mayer-Lismann Opera Workshop, & does much work coaching singers. He also conducts an amateur opera group in South London.

THE COMPOSER.

JOAN LITTLEJOHN, from London, studied at the RCM from 1955-59, with Peter Racine Fricker & John Addison (Composition & Orchestration); Antony Hopkins (Piano); & Jack Steadman (Violin).

During 1959-60 she copied a Musical, & prepared the Full Score of Fricker's 3rd Symphony.

Since 1960 she has worked full-time as Assistant Librarian at the RCM, devoting as much of her spare time as possible to Composition.

From 1961-64 she received tuition from Dr. Herbert Howells.

Since 1966 she has concentrated on song-writing, & has written about 104 songs. At present she is studying Composition with Lennox Berkeley with an award from the RVW Trust.

WILLIAM BLAKE'S

SONGS OF EXPERIENCE

Introduction

Hear the voice of the Bard!
Who Present, Past, & Future sees
Whose ears have heard,
The Holy Word,
That walk'd among the ancient trees.

Calling the lapsed Soul
And weeping in the evening dew:
That might controll
The starry pole:
And fallen fallen light renew!

O Earth O Earth return!
Arise from out the dewy grass;
Night is worn,
And the morn
Rises from the slumberous mass.

Turn away no more:
Why wilt thou turn away
The starry floor
The watry shore
Is giv'n thee till the break of day.

My Pretty ROSE TREE

A flower was offerd to me:
Such a flower as May never bore.
But I said I've a Pretty Rose-tree,
And I passed the sweet flower o'er.

Then I went to my Pretty Rose-tree:
To tend her by day and by night.
But my Rose turnd away with jealousy:
And her thorns were my only delight.

AH! SUN-FLOWER

Ah Sun-flower! weary of time,
Who countest the steps of the Sun:
Seeking after that sweet golden clime,
Where the travellers journey is done.

Where the Youth pined away with desire,
And the pale Virgin shrouded in snow:
Arise from their graves and aspire,
Where my Sun-flower wishes to go.

THE LILLY

The modest Rose puts forth a thorn:
The humble Sheep, a threatning horn:
While the Lilly white, shall in Love delight,
Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.

Contd . . . . .